

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 060019
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /137 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/FA:RAMONKS:MAC
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:LLSNEAD
ARA/CCA:DBOWEN
COMM:REIFSNYDER

-----025737 090322Z /64

P 082311Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CU, EFIS

SUBJECT: U.S.-CUBAN FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 209541, (B) HAVANA 101

1. CUBAN DELEGATION LED BY MR. VAREA MET WITH COMMERCE
AND STATE OFFICIALS, LED BY MR. CARMEN BLONDIN, DIRECTOR
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF NMFS AFTERNOONS OF FEBRUARY
27 AND 28 AND MARCH 1 ON 1978 REGULATIONS FOR CUBAN
FISHING IN U.S. ZONE.

2. CUBAN DELEGATION AGAIN RAISED PROBLEM OF U.S. LIM-
TATION ON MACKEREL BYCATCH IN CUBAN HAKE FISHERY.
CUBANS FEAR THAT THEIR FISHING VESSELS IN THE FIRST FEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 060019

DAYS OF THEIR FISHERY FOR HAKE MAY CATCH, BY ACCIDENT,
THEIR ENTIRE 70 TON QUOTA OF MACKEREL AND THUS WOULD BE
REQUIRED TO STOP FISHING LONG BEFORE THEY HAD CAUGHT
THEIR HAKE ALLOCATION. THE CUBANS REQUESTED THAT THE
U.S. PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY IN THE BYCATCH
RESTRICTIONS TO ALLOW THE CUBANS A CHANCE TO CATCH THEIR
ALLOCATION FOR DIRECTED FISHERIES. THEY OBSERVED THAT

IN THE ABSENCE OF U.S. ASSURANCES ON THIS, THEY WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO FISH IN THE U.S. ZONE IN 1978, AS THEY COULD NOT RISK THE EXPENSE OF BRINGING THEIR SHIPS TO

THE U.S. ZONE IF THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR FISHERY MIGHT BE CLOSED WITHIN A FEW DAYS. MR. HERNANDEZ, ONE OF THE CUBAN EXPERTS, REMARKED THAT A CUBAN VESSEL FISHING FOR HAKE MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY CATCH 10 TONS OF MACKEREL IN TEN MINUTES.

3. THE CUBANS DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL STEPS WHICH THEY WOULD TAKE TO REDUCE BYCATCH. THE U.S. EXPERTS SUGGESTED CERTAIN OTHER TECHNICAL STEPS WHICH THE CUBANS MIGHT ADOPT. THE CUBAN EXPERTS APPEARED ENTIRELY SINCERE IN THESE TECHNICAL PROPOSALS AND VERY MUCH OPEN TO THE U.S. SUGGESTIONS.

4. THE U.S. DELEGATION TOLD THE CUBANS THAT WE KNEW THAT THE BYCATCH REGULATIONS POSED A PROBLEM, NOT JUST FOR THEM BUT FOR A NUMBER OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES. A TASK FORCE HAS BEEN SET UP WITHIN THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT TO ATTEMPT TO EXAMINE THIS PROBLEM. IT HAS NOT, HOWEVER, MADE ITS FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS SO IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO TELL THE CUBANS WHAT, IF ANY, MODIFICATIONS OF COMMERCE REGULATIONS ARE POSSIBLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 060019

5. CUBAN DELEGATION ALSO PASSED TO US CUBAN 1978 APPLICATIONS TO FISH FOR SHARKS AND RAISED IN A PRELIMINARY WAY THE POSSIBILITIES FOR FISHING FOR OTHER SPECIES. MR. VAREA REQUESTED THAT U.S. EXPERTS COME TO HAVANA IN LATE MARCH FOR SHARK CONSULTATIONS. DEPARTMENT AND COMMERCE EXPERTS ACCEPTED INVITATION AND A U.S. DELEGATION OF ABOUT 8 PERSONS HOPES TO COME TO HAVANA.

6. FYI: PROGNOSIS ON SHARK SITUATION: U.S. SHOULD BE ABLE TO MEET A LARGE PORTION OF CUBAN REQUEST FOR QUOTA. THIS WOULD BE A PLUS FOR THE CUBANS AS THEY WERE UNABLE TO FISH FOR SHARKS IN THE U.S. ZONE IN 1977. PROGNOSIS ON BYCATCH PROBLEM: U.S. INTERESTS WILL NOT ACCEPT A CHANGE IN THE REGULATION TO UNLIMITED BYCATCH. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, TO RE-EXAMINE THE DATA ON WHICH THE MACKEREL ALLOCATION IS BASED. THIS APPROACH WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION POSES GRAVE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM. PROGNOSIS ON OTHER SPECIES IN GULF OF MEXICO: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT A SURPLUS FOR FOREIGN FISHING WILL EVER BE FOUND IN THE GULF OF MEXICO FOR SPECIES OF FISH WHICH ARE WIDELY SAUGHT BY U.S. FISHERMEN, SUCH

AS SHALLOW WATER SHRIMP, SNAPPER AND GROUPER. END FYI.

7. THE TALKS WERE EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND PLEASANT AND
WERE ENTIRELY LIMITED TO FISHERIES MATTERS. THE

CUBANS APPEARED ANXIOUS FOR SOLUTIONS FOR THEIR DIFFI-
CULTIES BUT NOT DESPERATE. THROUGH THEIR LOW KEY
APPROACH THE CUBAN DELEGATION PROBABLY ADVANCED THEIR
INTERESTS HERE AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES MEETINGS, FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE060019
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAMONKS:MAC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780105-0678
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780391/aaaacyvn.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fde90fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 209541, 78 HAVANA 101
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3398510
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-CUBAN FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: EFIS, CU, US
To: HAVANA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fde90fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014